HARDING B 9 (18)

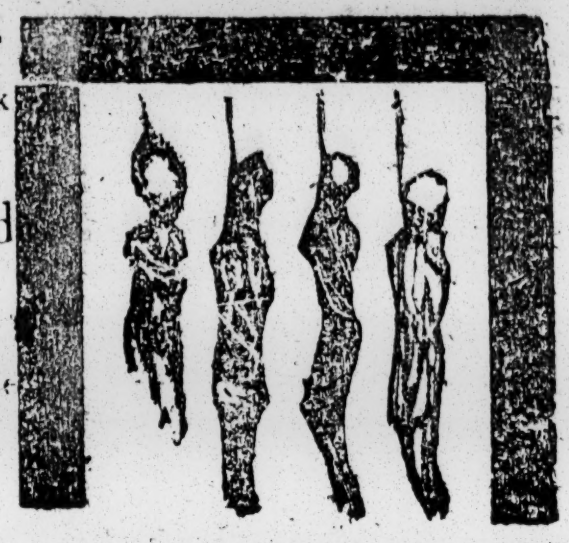
DYING BEHAVIOUR, &c.

Of *Joseph Samuel Abbott*, for

Forging a Power of Attorney, to sell 45cl. stock belonging to a Benefit Society;

John Hall, *Peter Chapman* and *Joseph Jones*, for Burglary.

Who were executed this Morning, opposite the Debtor's Door, Newgate.



FRIDAY last the Recorder made his Report to his Majesty, in Council, of the prisoners convicted in January sessions, when the four following were ordered for execution this day:

Joseph Samuel Abbot, for feloniously forging a power of attorney, in the name of John Purse, Joseph Abbot, James Little, and William Sibbald, with intend to defraud the Governors and Company of the Bank of England.

John Hall, *Peter Chapman*, and *Joseph Jones*, for a burglary.

Sunday they attended at the Chapel, in Newgate, together with the man executed on Monday, and behaved in a manner becoming their unhappy situation.

The unfortunate malefactor, J. S. Abbot, was only in his eighteenth year. He was born of respectable parents in the neighbourhood of Gay's Inn Lane, where his unhappy parents now reside, with a fair and unblemished character.

This youth, in his infancy, became acquainted with some of those infamous characters who pride themselves on the seduction of youth and innocence, especially where any trace of superior natural parts appeared. Lost to every sense of virtue themselves, they eagerly wish to plunge others into the same situation.

Unfortunately for himself and family, Abbot became too susceptible to the impressions of designing vice, and about the age of 17, became a complete debauchee, &c. He had his favourite female, was almost a constant visitor at the play-houses and other places of public resort, and spend too much time in alehouses, &c.

His wicked reign was very short. Accustomed to indulge himself in the greatest extravagance, he betook to very unlawful and unjustifiable methods to obtain money to support it. At the time the charge of forgery (for which he suffered) was exhibited against him at the Mansion House, he was a prisoner in the house of correction in Coldbath Fields, charged with stealing from an auction-room.

Abbot's father was clerk to a benefit society, held at the Rose, in Rose-street, Long Acre, and they had deservedly reposed such confidence in him; as to make him one of their stock-holders.

The father being unable to attend his duty, respect for him induced the society to admit his son to officiate for him; and in that situation he unfortunately became perfectly acquainted with the state of their affairs; having acted for his father upwards of twelve months.

Under pretence of the different parties signing his father's resignation, he obtained their names in their own handwriting, which was afterwards copied as signatures to a power of attorney, enabling him to sell out 450l. stock belonging to that society. He accomplished his purpose, and soon spent the produce in folly and extravagance.

The Bank of England replaced the stock for the society, and consequently became the prosecutors.

However sincerely the fate of this youth may be lamented, yet, when the enormity of his crime is considered, in endeavouring to deprive a society of industrious men of the provision they had made against age, sickness, &c. we must acquiesce in the justice of his fate.

The other three unfortunate criminals, who suffered at the same time, were all concerned in one crime. They were notorious offenders. Jones was in his 36th, Hall 33, and Chapman only 19 years.

They were convicted on the clearest evidence, of a burglary in the dwelling-house of Messrs. Laycock and Tyler, in the Minories, and stealing a very large quantity of goods, upwards of 200l. value: also silver spoons, five guineas in gold, thirty shillings and six sixpences in silver, and 4320 halfpence.

On the trial J. Jones pleaded guilty.

About eight this morning they ascended the platform, attended by a clergyman, and appeared resigned to their awful fate.

The dreadful apparatus being adjusted, the signal was given, the platform fell, and they were launched into eternity.—After hanging the usual time, their bodies were cut down, and delivered to their friends.

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HARDING